

## Academic Vocabulary for Chapter 1

These are the terms you should know  
as you read and analyze the stories in this chapter.

**Plot** A series of related events in a story, each connected to the next.

**Sequence** The order in which a story's events take place.



**Exposition** The opening of a story, when the characters and their conflicts are introduced.

**Conflict** A struggle between two forces. An **external conflict** can take place between two characters; between a character and a group; or between a character and an animal or a force in nature. An **internal conflict** is a struggle that takes place within a character's mind or heart.

**Climax** The most exciting part of a story; the moment when the outcome of the conflict is determined. The climax usually comes near the end of a short story.

**Resolution** (also called *dénouement* [dā'nōō·mān']) The very end of the story, when loose ends of the plot are tied up.



**Flashback** An action that interrupts the story to introduce an event that took place in the past.

**Flash-forward** An action that jumps ahead of the story to narrate an event that happens at a later time.

**Foreshadowing** Hints in the story that certain events are going to happen later.



**Setting** The time and place in which the story happens.

**Atmosphere** Mood or feelings brought on by a story's setting.



**Reading Standard 1.1**  
Identify and use the literal and figurative meanings of words and understand word derivations.

**Reading Standard 1.3**  
Identify Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology and use the knowledge to understand the origin and meaning of new words (e.g., the word *narcissistic* drawn from the myth of Narcissus and Echo).

**Reading Standard 3.4 (Grade 8 Review)**  
Analyze the relevance of the setting (e.g., place, time, customs) to the mood, tone, and meaning of the text.

**Reading Standard 3.6**  
Analyze and trace an author's development of time and sequence, including the use of complex literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, flashbacks).



### For Further Information . . .

- Be sure to read the essay on **plot** in *Holt Literature and Language Arts*, pages 2–3.
- Be sure to read the essay on **setting** in *Holt Literature and Language Arts*, pages 48–49.